



Library Development & Legislation Committee

Friday, December 8, 2017

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members and guests present: Kathy Pletcher, Connie Meyer, Kris Adams Wendt, Bruce Gay, Sherry Machones, Scott Vrieze, Anita Weier, Plumer Lovelace, Steve Conway (DeWitt), Kurt Kiefer (DPI/DLT), and Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT).

Virtual participation via GoToMeeting: Mark Arend, Heather Johnson, Larry Oathout, John Thompson (PLSR Steering Committee), Michael Blumenfeld (WEMTA), and Janet Vraney (WEMTA).

Members absent: Nick Dimassis, Kathy Klager, Steve Ohs, and Jim Ramsey.

Co-chair Pletcher called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Wendt acted as recorder. Introductions were made around the table for the benefit GoToMeeting participants and guests. Scott Vrieze attended his first meeting as 2018 WLA Vice-President/2019 President-Elect. Larry Oathout was also welcomed as a new member for 2018.

Changes and additions to the agenda. Agenda order was accepted by consensus with no changes.

Approval of minutes from the September 29, 2017 meeting. Minutes of the September 29, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Meyer seconded by Gay.**

Legislative update. AB572/SB491, which WLA is calling the **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill**, was assigned to the Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Mining chaired by Rep. VanderMeer. Conway complimented LD&L members Johnson, Klager, Meyer and WLA President Jean Anderson who testified on behalf of the bill at the committee hearing on November 16. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee chaired by Senator Olsen, where members of the WLA LD&L team will also testify at a December 19 hearing. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has taken an official position supporting this legislation. Conway has approached Senator Testin to take over as lead Senate author for the bill since Sen. Harsdorf became DATCP Secretary. AB572/SB491 adds language to expand the use of the DPI WISEdata and WISEdash information system appropriations beyond K-12 schools to include applications of potential benefit to individual public libraries and Wisconsin's 16 regional public library systems. It also opens TEACH block grants, which are now available through DOA to small and rural schools, to small and rural libraries. Legislators have been very supportive of this initiative; it helps that it has no fiscal note. It was noted that the bill includes specific mention of consortia of eligible public libraries and eligible public library systems, as well as consortia of eligible school districts. Conway will be closely monitoring the bill as the window for passage during fewer remaining floor sessions narrows at the end of the current session.

Cross county payments working group. Pletcher, Meyer and Klager will accept the Wisconsin Counties Association invitation to share information about cross county library payments to the WCA Board on December 15. Their slide presentation was previewed and discussed at the meeting as a “dress rehearsal.” The WCA has invited WLA contributions to a 2018 issue of its *Wisconsin Counties* magazine dedicated exclusively to library issues. Pletcher, Meyer, Klager and Wendt will be the editing team for that project.

Library Legislative Day – February 20, 2018. In the absence of both Dimassis and Ramsey, discussion was brief. Conway is working with the committee. Messaging will focus on gratitude for the state budget outcome, and shared stories to reinforce the three talking points of broadband access, workforce development and lifelong learning, similar to presentations at Joint Finance Committee public hearings around the state last spring. A select number of Legislative Library Champions will be recognized for their support of library initiatives during the 2017-2018 session.

Libraries Transform. Dimassis and Lovelace offered an opportunity at the capitol on November 9 for legislators to get their photos taken for Libraries Transform posters. Five new posters will be created. Seven additional legislators who already had posters stopped by to chat. Conway will explore scheduling another opportunity for a poster photo shoot in early 2018. There’s a need to verify whether all legislators for whom posters are available actually received them last year. It was suggested that a form could be devised for Library Legislative Day, to gather/leave behind information in each legislative office about contacting libraries with available space for legislative listening sessions back in the district. One check box could be whether the legislator has received a Libraries Transform poster.

Planning for the campaign season – Libraries: A civic Space for Civil Debate. The Libraries Transform discussion segued into this agenda item as well. Campaign season is an important time for relationship building. Conway mentioned the value of the trusted WLA brand; legislators want to align with us. It’s important to figure out how to capture and exchange contact information between legislative offices and local libraries in their district, as well as address library policies regarding public meeting space for legislator organized events during 2018.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. Machones reported National Library Legislative Day is May 7-8. She is getting up to speed as the new Federal Legislative Advocate. Kiefer offered assistance in that regard. Net Neutrality is of serious concern and being closely watched by ALA. Conway offered insights for relationship building with members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation. Kiefer commented on the federal budget situation and Institute of Museum and Library Services appropriation, which is “so far so good.” Close attention should also be paid to E-rate program appropriations as related to workforce development and availability of low cost accessible broadband in rural areas.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer provided an overview of the updated five year LSTA plan and how DLT and the LSTA Advisory Committee were addressing current and future DLT program support, given federal budget uncertainty. Opening WISEdash and WISEdata appropriations to include library as well as school applications (AB572/SB491) could potentially contribute to the mix of available funding to assist with proposed LSTA resource sharing and information access capacity projects and goals, or PLSR related projects. Several LD&L members expressed concern about maintaining transparency regarding future plans for potential funding associated with AB572/SB491 so that WLA talking points presented during legislative committee testimony and related messaging remain accurate. Pletcher will forward to LD&L

the original talking points and likely uses for expanded WISEdash and WISEdata appropriations supplied by Kiefer in early October to assist the LD&L hearing testimony team with messaging.

PLSR update. Thompson summarized the written report previously shared with the LD&L list. Superintendent Evers is looking forward to a solid set of recommendations from the PLSR Steering Committee at the end of the three-year process. Conway commented upon the need to be mindful of public perception and transparency during implementation of a complex process like PLSR with the potential to bring about significant change, particularly if individuals or entities closely associated with that process could later be perceived as having benefitted from the outcome. Discussion ensued. Wendt asked about a new Core Recommendations Collaborators (CRC) group created at the PLSR Steering Committee meeting on December 7 to assist Steering with drafting final project recommendations. LD&L was mentioned among the stakeholder groups that would to be asked to contribute a CRC representative. Thompson asked to revisit the topic after CRC selection details were finalized by the Steering Committee.

WEMTA update. Vraney and Blumenfeld reported for WEMTA on upcoming plans for 2018 events and initiatives. A meeting was held with Lt. Gov. Kleefisch regarding the Common School Fund. WEMTA's legislative committee will be sending two representatives to Library Legislative Day. WEMTA is strategizing on messaging regarding the statewide referendum on the April general election ballot to amend the state constitution by eliminating the State Treasurer's office.

Announcements and other business. **Wendt** announced she will be 90% semi-retired as of January 3, but will continue LD&L her membership and associated assignments.

Proposed 2018 meetings. The following meeting dates were confirmed: January 26, March 23, May 18, July 27, September 28 and November 30.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM on a **motion from Gay seconded by Wendt.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder